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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01553 262204Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------037368 270802Z /13
R 261814Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5252
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01553

EXDIS

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 1L652: GDS
TAGS: PARM CSCE GW FR
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S VIEWS ON
SECURITY ISSUES

REFS: (A) PARIS 2369; (B) BONN 1211

1. DURING A WIDE-RANGING TOUR D'HORIZON ON JANUARY 26, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER DISCOURSED ON SEVERAL SECURITY ISSUES. HIS COMMENTS TO ME ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD: GENSCHER SAID THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAD HAD AN "INTENSIVE" DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE AT AN UNPUBLICIZED MEETING ATTENDED BY POLITICAL PARTY CHAIRMEN ON JANUARY 20. BASED ON THIS MEETING, A PAPER WAS BEING DRAFTED.
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THE LATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE US DELEGATION (LED BY DAVID AARON) EXPECTED HERE NEXT WEEK. WHEN I PROBED GENSCHER ON FRG THINKING, HE RESPONDED OBLIQUELY THAT "ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES HAD BEEN CAUTIOUS ON THIS ISSUE" BUT HE DECLINED TO MAKE CLEAR THE NATURE OF THE EMERGING GOVERNMENT POSITION.

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3. BREZHNEV LETTER: GENSCHER SAID THE FRG HOPED THE NATO COUNTRIES WOULD AGREE TO A COMMON LINE IN THEIR REPLIES. WHILE THIS DID NOT HAVE TO BE AN IDENTICAL LETTER FROM ALL MEMBERS, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO AVOID DIFFERING NUANCES WHICH WOULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF A SPLIT IN ALLIED RANKS. GENSCHER STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATO DECISION-MAKING PROCESS NOT BEING AFFECTED BY OUTSIDE PRESSURE. HIS REFERENCE TO THIS POINT IN HIS JANUARY 19 ADDRESS TO THE BUNDESTAG (REF B) HAD BEEN MEANT AS A SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS.

4. FRENCH DISARMAMENT INITIATIVE: GENSCHER SAID THE FRG HAD A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL (REF A). THE FRG WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL'S APPARENT RELATIONSHIP TO MBFR AND THE CREATION OF A EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR DISARMAMENT COMPOSED OF CSCE STATES. THE FRG WAS NOT SURE WHAT THE FRENCH HAD IN MIND AND LOOKED FORWARD TO A DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER IN NATO. THIS WOULD ALSO BE A SUBJECT OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT NEXT MONTH.

5. SALT: AS HE HAD DONE IN HIS JANUARY 19 SPEECH TO THE BUNDESTAG (REF B), GENSCHER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE US WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT ON THIS
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